

REMARKS

The Office Action dated October 9, 2008, has been received and carefully reviewed. The preceding amendments and the following remarks form a full and complete response thereto. Claims 6 and 12 have been amended as to matters of form only. No new matter is added. Claims 6-17 are pending in the application and are submitted for reconsideration.

Claims 6-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,944,191 issued to Ray et al. Applicants traverse the rejection and submit that claims 6-17 recite subject matter not disclosed by Ray.

Claims 6-17 are directed to a packaging and packaging system. As recited in the claims, the packaging consists of a protective sheet sealed in part to the tray so that the unfixed part is in form of a tab and this tab is located one corner. The presence of a tab located in one corner and formed by an unfixed part of the protective sheet is not disclosed by Ray.

Moreover, these two characterizing features, taken together, give to the packaging of the invention the advantage to be "immediately available and removable" and therefore particularly useful for patients with limited dexterity. Ray fails to disclose this as well.

The peculiar location of the unfixed part of the protective sheet as claimed, has many advantages over the prior art: (a) it reduces the risk to damage the tablet when opening the blister, (b) it reduces also the risk to damage the protective sheet covering the adjacent tablets, (c) it allows to make the tab easily available to manual peel off by

simply folding the blister along the cutting line and there is no need to separate the tray into subsection to take a tablet from it, and (d) it allows to shape the tab with an increased width making easier to peel it off.

Ray fails to disclose a packaging that is immediately available and removable and that consists of the features cited in claims 6 and 12 and which have the advantages stated above. By their dependency upon claims 6 and 12, claims 7-11 and 13-17 are also allowable over Ray for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, Applicants requests that the rejection be withdrawn and that claims 6-17 be allowed.

In view of the above, all objections and rejections have been sufficiently addressed. The Applicants submit that the application is now in condition for allowance and request that claims 6-17 be allowed and this application passed to issue.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, the Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension together with any additional fees may be charged to Counsel's Deposit Account No. 02-2135.

If for any reason the Examiner determines that the application is not now in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact, by telephone, the Applicants' undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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